

NEWS RELEASE



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NORTH CAROLINA HOGS UP, U.S. INVENTORY UP

All hogs and pigs on **North Carolina** farms on September 1, 2007 totaled 10.1 million head, up 4 percent from September 1, 2006, and up 6 percent from the June 1, 2007 inventory. Market hogs, at 9.07 million head, are also up 4 percent from last year, and up 7 percent from last quarter. Breeding stock totaled 1.03 million head, up 2 percent from last year and up 1 percent from last quarter. North Carolina ranks 2nd nationally in the total number of hogs and pigs behind Iowa.

The State's pig crop during the June-August period totaled 4.98 million head, down 2 percent from the same quarter last year. These pigs were produced by 550,000 sows, also down 2 percent from last year. Pigs saved per litter averaged 9.05, down from 9.10 pigs saved on average last year.

North Carolina producers intend to farrow 540,000 sows during the September - November 2007 quarter and 540,000 sows during the December 2007 - February 2008 quarter.

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2007 was 64.6 million head. This was up 3 percent from both September 1, 2006 and June 1, 2007.

Breeding inventory, at 6.14 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, and up slightly from the previous quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 58.5 million head, was up 3 percent from both last year and last quarter.

The June-August 2007 pig crop, at 27.5 million head, was up 4 percent from each of the last two years. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.99 million head, up 3 percent from 2006 and up 2 percent from 2005.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 40 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 39 percent last year.